Amherst College (Dec: 24th 1838

To the Soc: of Inquiry in Theo: Sem. Princeton.

Dear Brethren

Your favor of Sept: 18th was duly received. We *should* & *do* rejoice in that blessed bond which unites us though we never have seen nor expect to see, each other's faces in this world.

All to whom the Savior & his cause are precious rejoice that this chain is extending & soon all this fallen world will be embraced within it.

We have lately had an interesting illustration of this sweet union in a letter received, by Proffessor Tyler, from Priest Abraham of the Nestorians, with whom Mr Perkins resides.

In this the writer expresses, in his patriarchal style, his love for Christians in *America* & for the *brethren* laboring among *them*, & bears testimony to their uprightness & devotion to the cause of the Savior.

Amherst College, considering the short period of its existence, has sent out many of those devoted, (or I should rather say *true* *sincere* *consistent*, servants of Christ. I say *consistent*; for did we not *all* profess, & promise the Savior to hold ourselves in readiness to go, *to toil*, *to die* wherever he might call us?

Perhaps the very fact, that our College has done something in this respect, has led us, in our foolishness, to take it for granted that we are the chosen of the Lord, an institution that he will delight to bless.

At any rate we have to confess, in examining the map of *our* history, we are, at the present time, very far from that state of Holy love & devotion to God, which should characterize us

This is the *fourth* year since there has been any powerful outpouring of God's Spirit upon our college.

During this time hundreds, in our beautiful valley, have been converted to God; yet we are left comparatively unblest.

Still there are those among us who mourn in secret over our desolation & are praying, as we trust with *faith*, that God would turn and visit us in mercy: for in his all wise Providence he has visited us with disease and death.

In the course of *one week*, during this term, we have been called to stand around the grave, and take the last sad look, of two of our number.

The shadow which death cast upon us made us pause awhile; but it passed off & we hurry on as before, tho' there are others, still upon beds of sickness under the power of the same lingering yet dreadful disease (Typhus fever).

We bless God that in wrath he has remembered mercy & we trust that our wonted health will soon return to us.

Shall we remain unmoved? Brethren pray for us.

In regard to the state of missionary feeling among us; You know, that as a general thing, wherever there is light on the subject of missions, the two states of feelings (religious & missionary) coexist. What then shall we say for this?

Our monthly concerts are well attended, full as well as any of our religious meetings. These are extremely interesting

To each member of the Faculty a portion of the missionary
world is assigned for examination & report.
Letters are also received by the Faculty & read; as for
instance the letter, above mentioned, from Priest Abraham.
Our Collection at the concert averages, perhaps about four
or five dollars each evening. Small, but considering that
we are students, many of us poor students perhaps liberal.
There is much truth in the remark of Mr Dwight "Give us
more prayers, and you may give us fewer missionaries"
We, as students looking forward to the holy ministry, should
feel, as we cast our mite into the treasury of the Lord,
that God is saying to us,
give to the Cause more men & you may give less money
We are grieved to present so sad an ~~[illegible]~~
picture of our condition but truth demands it
of us & we would again say Brethren "Pray for us"
We would rejoice that tho' Christians may forget
the heathen, God does not; & we are cheered, as you
are aware, with good news of revivals among them:
We are glad also to hear that the good Spirit of our God
is evidently among you.
We would pray that these good tidings may encourage
& arouse us from our guilty slumbers!
Brethren You have been in college, You know how prone
we are to suffer the literature, the toys of college to
entice us from our Savior. We excuse not ourselves:
we mourn over our backslidings. Oh when shall we learn
"to crucify the flesh with its affections & lusts!
When shall we feel as that beloved missionary, above
mentioned, "Oh who would not be willing to be tossed on the stormy

ocean of this life for a Century, yea, even for many Centuries, to save even a single soul from hell!

Our Society flourishes. We were addressed last Commencement by Rev. Mr Barnes of Philadelphia. His subject "The Choice of a proffession". I rejoice that having the same Saviour, I have therefore the privilege on his side of subscribing myself your Christian brother.

In behalf of the Soc: Allen B. Robbins. Cor: Sec.

Single

Ansd Aug. 26th '39. 18¾

AMHERST MS. DEC 25

Society of Inquiry
Princeton Theo: Sem:
New Jersey